



THE STATE OF UTAH
OFFICE OF STATE ENGINEER
SALT LAKE CITY

ED. H. WATSON
STATE ENGINEER

September 1, 1943

RE: BURNT FORK DISTRIBUTION ✓

Memorandum for Office Study Only, by L. C. MONSON

On August 27, 1943, the writer met with the water users of Burnt Fork Creek at the Burnt Fork School House. It was decided that there was no occasion to hold the users away from their haying work unless they wished to accompany Mr. David P. Miller, Supt. Water Division No. 4 of Wyoming, Mr. Louis Stall, Wyoming Water Commissioner and the writer on an inspection tour of the diversions from Burnt Fork in Utah.

We visited the heads of the various Utah ditches, including the head of the Inter-State Canal from Burnt Fork Creek. The creek channel above the diversion gates of the Inter-State Canal should be straightened. This fact was brought to the attention of the Inter-State people at a previous meeting by Mr. Cottrell. Nothing has been done to correct this condition. The water in the creek above the intake splits into two streams - one of which, by passes the diverting works and continues down Burnt Fork Creek. The Russell Canal diverts immediately below, and at the side of the Inter-State Canal diversion the two canals run parallel for some distance. A spillway and shut-off gate is located on the Russell Canal about 200' below the head of the canal and returns water to the Burnt Fork Creek channel. The Russell Canal furnishes water to the Russell ranch, the Sadlier ranch and the Beck ranch. The Gamble ditch is diverted from the creek some distance below the point of diversion of the Russell ditch, and the Jensen ditches divert below the Gamble ditch.

During the past season, practically all the water of Burnt Fork Creek was diverted by the above canals and little water was left for the Wyoming users except those under the Inter-State Canal. The Utah users admitted to me that this was the case and stated that the flow of Burnt Fork was so low that it required practically all the water to take care of their needs. The Wyoming users, claiming priority over the Utah rights, were very much dissatisfied with the past methods of distribution and insisted that beginning next season a water commissioner be appointed to distribute the water in both Utah and Wyoming. Mr. Miller said, "Something along this line must be done," and suggested that a disinterested party be appointed commissioner for next year, or until a compact could be worked out between the users in the two states. It would be difficult to secure a disinterested party locally as practically everyone living in this vicinity is interested either in Wyoming or Utah.

If a commissioner is appointed, provisions should be made whereby accurate measurements of the water distributed could be made and the commissioner required to submit a proper report of his work to the State Engineer.

The Utah users, at the meeting July 22, 1942, were instructed to build headgates of a design approved by the State Engineer, to which they agreed. Nothing has been done to date.